

VIA: AIR
(SPECIFY AIR OR SEA POUCH)

DISPATCH NO.

SGAA- 6848
~~KAPOK~~ # ~~2106~~
2106

~~KAPOK~~
CLASSIFICATION
SECURITY INFORMATION

NOV 5 1953

TO : Chief, SE

SECRET

DATE: _____

FROM : Attn:

SUBJECT: GENERAL— OBOPUS/PARAM/INTEL

SPECIFIC— Fig Team Debriefing

REF: 5264, 29 October 1953; 5232, 24 October 1953

1. Forwarded herewith are the items of positive intelligence gathered by Fig Tree Team on its recent mission. We are fully aware that the take of positive information from this operation is small but this is due in part to the fact that Fig followed instructions and destroyed most of their notes when they were ambushed.

2. This dispatch will be followed by two others in which we will cover operational information and the team story of its journey in, the ambush and route out.

[]

Attachment herewith:
Fig report

30 October 1953

RMW
URMW/WFH/lgk

DECLASSIFIED AND RELEASED BY
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
SOURCES/METHOD/EXEMPTION 3B2B
NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT
DATE 2007

Distribution:

- 3 - Washington, w/3 cys of attachment
- 1 - Washington, w/attachment (Vital Documents)
- 1 - Chrono, w/attachment
- 1 - Subject, w/attachment
- 1 - XO, w/attachment
- 2 - OBOPUS, w/attachment

~~KAPOK~~
CLASSIFICATION
SECURITY INFORMATION
SECRET

2 JUN 1959

SECURITY INFORMATION
SECRET

Attachment to SGAA- 6848
KAPOK # ~~210 6~~

NOV 5 1953

Fig Team - Items of Positive Intelligence

DOI- Sept. 1953

MILITARY

1. Fig observed the following:

CS-23402
a. On the heights above Boboshtice new open trench emplacements have been dug. The trenches forming a zigzag pattern extend for about 500 meters length facing the Greek border. The positions are about 1.75 meters deep and 80 cm wide. Below these trenches Fig Team observed from 10 - 12 machine gun emplacements constructed of logs and rock, the positions were about 2 meters in height and were log roofed. Fig estimates that each position was capable of holding about 5 - 6 men. The positions blend well with the surrounding terrain and therefore are extremely difficult to detect. In the middle of the gun positions a pole of about 3 meters length with a cross piece was visible. Though there were no lines leading from the pole, it is believed that it may be a telephone pole.

b. On 10 September Fig observed a group of soldiers of about company size at Gjonomath. In the immediate area 20 - 25 tents were also visible. According to source the tents were capable of holding 5 or 6 persons. Fig further stated that when they returned over the same area on 19 October, neither the tents nor soldiers were present.

c. Commanding Officer of the Korca Division is Lt. Col. Skender Malindi. (According to source the division is known as the 3rd). In order to help clarify this information to Headquarters we should like to state that from time to time the number of the division is changed in order to confuse "enemy agents." This writer has on other occasions heard this same statement which was later confirmed by Sgt. Riza Dule Mehmetaj, subject of SGAA-6508.

CS-23402
2. Through contact with Neas Rapushi, former Corporal of the 7th Regiment of Gjinokaster who was released in March 1953, Fig obtained the following information:

a. CO of the Division, Lt. Col. Vask Gjini

b. Commissar of the Division, Lt. Col. Veso Ismaili

c. Chief of Staff, Major Fete Ruci

d. The 4 regiments belonging to the division are (1) the 18th Regiment stationed in Delvine, (2) the 7th Regiment stationed at Gjinokaster, (3) the 5th Regiment also at Gjinokaster and (4) the 2nd Regiment stationed at Permet.

e. At the time of Rapushi's discharge, Captain 1st Class Nazif Hoxha was Regiment CO; Commissar, Captain 1st Class Zeni Asgeriu; Chief of Staff, Captain Teki Hasan Louarsi (who is believed to be a strong nationalist).

f. Arms used by

SECURITY INFORMATION
SECRET

KAPOK

~~KAPOK~~

Attachment to SGAA- 6848

SECURITY INFORMATION

KAPOK ~~6848~~ 2106

Page 2

NOV 5 1953

SECRET

CS-25902a
f. Arms used by the regiment are:

- (1) Russian carbines M 1924, calibre 7.62 which holds a 5 round clip.
- (2) Light machine gun TB, calibre 7.62.
- (3) Heavy machine gun type "MAXIM" calibre unknown.
- (4) Russian rifles called "SINABERE" with telescope mount.
- (5) Russian mortar 87 mm.

g. Subject was able to give the following information on his platoon:

- (1) Strength - 18 men
- (2) Equipment - 3 Sinabere type telescope rifles.
3 TB type IMG
3 machine pistols
9 Russian carbines.

h. As mentioned in SATHE-5264, Rapushi was present when Olive Team was ambushed. He offered the following information regarding them:

(1) The group was surrounded at Kopatches by members of the Sigurimi, police and armed civilians. The Sigurimi notified the 18th Regiment of the "reactionaries" presence and asked for aid from the regiment. Rapushi stated that the battle lasted for 5 hours. When Olive's position was over-run they found Riza Abaze and Fido Velin dead (both having taken their own lives) and Kasem Shehu wounded. Mehmet Hoxha, the fourth member of the team, had also been wounded, but was not in position with the other three men. According to source Hoxha had stated when captured that when their ammo had been spent and it became obvious that their position would be over-run, he, Hoxha, decided to head for the border. (Hoxha was found some distance from the position having passed out from loss of blood).

i. Source further stated that he was present when a Greek Air Force pilot landed his aircraft in a pasture near Delvine last year. On being questioned the pilot stated that he had been on maneuvers around the Kifissia area and on the third day of maneuvers he decided to escape because he had received word that the Greek I.S. was aware of his Communist activities. The pilot further stated that there were other Communist friends at the field. (This information is being passed to the Greek I.S. which is still carrying on an investigation of the incident).

3. The following information was obtained from Sefer Bektashi of Tresova:

a. On 1 October 22 trucks entered Zvarisht and were believed to have unloaded ammo.

SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET

~~KAPOK~~

b. On 7 October

~~KAPOK~~

SECURITY INFORMATION

~~SECRET~~

Attachment to SGAA-6848

KAPOK #~~2106~~

Page 3

NOV 5 1951

b. On 7 October Major Ali Lalai, Captain Mehmeti Refati and 5 unidentified officers were on an inspection tour of Tresova and Zvarisht. The area around Zvarisht is presently guarded by 3 roving patrols.

c. The following officers were members of the unit stationed at Librazhd. According to source the unit was known as the 5390 Regiment. (To our knowledge only a frontier defense bn. was stationed at Librazhd). Source, however, stated that (1) Captain 1st Class Neli Arri was the CO, (2) Commissar, Lt. Vangel Leka, (3) 1st Bn CO, Captain 2nd Class Servit Kulla and (4) 2nd Bn CO, Lt. Sotir Steria, Commissar, Lt. Tiar Stella.

4. a. Early this summer it was announced that 1 additional Russian advisor would be assigned to each division.

b. It was rumored that on 5 October a group of Albanian officers had returned from Russia where they had been undergoing special training.

c. In May of this year each regiment was required to supply 1 bn. to the coast defense command for work on fortifications.

5. Fig Team stated that Viet Agolli of Mocan informed them that his son, Captain Viet Muslim Agolli, had stated that they receive much information from Italy regarding team activities in Albania.

PRISONS - KORCA

1. The large prison in Korca is called the "Enemy of the Peoples Prison." It is located in the new prefecture. At the present time there are about 650 inmates guarded by 50 police. The prison director is Captain Bektash Melcani who is believed to be a nationalist. Melcani has on occasion allowed HTGRUBBY to be heard by the inmates. The second in command is Warrant Officer Qerim Gjergjevich. Source stated that during times when aircraft are heard in the vicinity, security measures are increased in the prison for fear of outbreaks of disorder. (What measures are taken were not specified by source).

2. The Metropolitan Prison.

The only information available on this prison is that persons serving sentences of 5 years or less are confined there. The inmates in general are persons who have failed to meet their taxes, or unable to fill their quotas. To Source's best knowledge no persons convicted of political crimes are imprisoned there.

POLITICAL

1. Party members

a. The second secretary of party committee in Pogradec, Pero Busha, was transferred to Shkoder in August. Reason for transfer unknown.

b. Head of the party committee in Pogradec is Svat Leshkoviku.

c. 1st secretary, Astrit Colaku.

SECURITY INFORMATION

~~SECRET~~

~~KAPOK~~

CS-257022